IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Stephen M. Gates, et al.

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Dated:

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Commissioner for Patents Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In connection with filing the above-identified patent application under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b), applicants submit the following amendments and remarks for entry of record in the above-identified patent application.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service Express Mail Post Office to Addressee service under 37 C.F.R. §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: January 27, 2004

Leslie S. Szivøs, Ph.D.